



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene



June 2007

Dear Physician:

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), would like to inform you about an important change in Maryland's communicable disease reporting law. Each year, Maryland receives federal funding for HIV/AIDS services through the Ryan White CARE Act. Beginning this year, funding will only be distributed to states that either report HIV/AIDS cases by name, or are in the process of transitioning to this system. In order to continue this funding, the Maryland HIV/AIDS Reporting Act (House Bill 1270/Senate Bill 987) was passed by the Maryland legislature, and signed into law by Governor O'Malley on April 24, 2007. This law went into effect immediately.

The new law contains two significant changes for physicians. The first change expands to the already existing requirement for physicians to report to the health department any patients diagnosed with Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) to now also include patients diagnosed with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection. The second change requires physicians to report to the health department newborn infants who are born to HIV-infected mothers, and therefore have been exposed to HIV.

Included with this letter is a packet of materials regarding these changes, along with forms and other information to aid physicians in complying with the new requirements. The Maryland AIDS Administration worked in close collaboration with MedChi to develop the enclosed toolkit of materials for your practice, as well as educational materials for your patients. The packet includes physician reporting requirements, revised consent and reporting forms, a set of Frequently Asked Questions, a patient brochure, and information about partner notification services.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Colin Flynn, Chief of Surveillance and Epidemiology, at DHMH, AIDS Administration at (800) 358-9001. For more information regarding MedChi's HIV/AIDS education or other public health activities, please contact Dr. Meena Abraham at mabraham@medchi.org or 800-492-1056.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important public health activity.

John M. Colmers
Secretary
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Scott Hagaman, MD
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